



DAILY COVID-19 UPDATE

March 25, 2020

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced early this morning they reached a deal on a bipartisan, historic relief package to address the coronavirus pandemic. On the floor, Leader McConnell suggested the Senate will pass the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act today, though a vote has not yet been scheduled, and final legislative text of the bill has yet to be released.

According to House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), House lawmakers will get 24 hours' notice before voting on the Senate's package, teeing up a Thursday evening vote at the earliest. Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) called for the House to send the Senate bill to President Trump "without delay."

Congressional

- **House**

- [Pelosi Statement on Senate Coronavirus Bill Agreement](#)
- House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) – [On the Senate's Bipartisan Coronavirus Bill Agreement](#)
- Committees
 - House Financial Services Committee Democrats
 - [Committee Democrats At Work: Rep. Vargas Introduces Bill to Provide Additional Defense Production Act Funding During COVID-19 Crisis](#)
 - [Committee Democrats At Work: Rep. Phillips Introduces Bill to Establish a Congressional COVID-19 Oversight Panel](#)
 - Ways and Means GOP
 - [IRS Announces Additional Relief for Taxpayers During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

- **Senate**

- The Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act ([S. 3548](#)) – introduced by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

- [Press Release: McConnell on Bipartisan Coronavirus Relief: "The Senate Stepped Up"](#)
- [CARES Section-By-Section](#)
- [Summary of the emergency appropriations for coronavirus health response and agency operations](#)
- [Scott, Sasse, Graham Demand Immediate Fix to Life-Threatening Drafting Error in Emergency Bill](#)
- [Senate Democratic Leader Schumer – Dear Colleague](#)
- [Senate Democrats Appropriations Summary](#)
- [Senate Democrats Summary](#)
- Committees
 - [Small Business Committee One-Pager](#)
 - [Crapo Leads Economic Response in Coronavirus Phase III Legislation](#)

Administration

- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
 - [IRS Operations During COVID-19: Mission-critical functions continue](#)
 - [Filing and Payment Deadlines Questions and Answers](#)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - [SEC Extends Conditional Exemptions From Reporting and Proxy Delivery Requirements for Public Companies, Funds, and Investment Advisers Affected By Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- [Fed breaks the bank in bid to rescue economy](#) – Politico, by Victoria Guida
- [Senate aims to vote Wednesday on \\$2 trillion coronavirus bill after landmark agreement with White House](#) – Washington Post, by Erica Wener, Mike DeBonis, and Paul Kane

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

After five days of negotiations, the Senate reached an agreement early this morning on an approximately \$2 trillion economic stimulus package. H.R. 748, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* includes \$100 billion for hospitals, \$150 billion for state and local governments to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, expands the use of telehealth for diagnosis and treatment of patients, allows health savings accounts (HSAs) to be used to purchase over-the-counter medications, and extends expiring health extenders until November 2020, among other things.

Congressional

- In [remarks](#) on the Senate floor, Majority Leader McConnell stated the CARES Act will provide more masks for healthcare providers, more funding

for hospitals, "and soon, more new treatments to administer to patients" battling the coronavirus.

- House Majority Leader Hoyer issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) on the Senate's bipartisan coronavirus relief bill. Among other things, he notes that members will be given a 24 hour notice prior to a vote in the chamber on the Senate's stimulus package.
- Speaker Pelosi released a [statement](#) on the Senate's Phase III economic stimulus bill agreement.
- Senate Democratic Leader Schumer issued a [Dear Colleague letter](#) on the Senate's bipartisan emergency aid legislation.
- During an appearance on Bloomberg TV, Rep. Brady (R-TX) [outlined](#) and answered questions about the Phase III coronavirus aid package.
- Sen. Cotton (R-AR) and Rep. Gallagher (R-WI) penned an [op-ed](#) in Fox News titled, "China stole U.S. capacity to make drugs - we must take it back."
- Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) sent a [letter](#) to Secretary of State Pompeo, urging him to impose a temporary ban on all exports of coronavirus testing and diagnostic equipment, personal protective equipment, respirators, pharmaceutical supplies, and any other medical supplies during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Sens. Carper (D-DE) and Sullivan (R-AK) led a bipartisan group of colleagues in a [letter](#) to Vice President Pence, urging the establishment of two temporary task forces, including one for vaccines, diagnostics, and treatments to "coordinate medical supply shortages and the development of innovative solutions to address these shortages." Reps. Young (R-AK) and Rochester (D-DE) led a similar [letter](#) to the Vice President with a bipartisan group of 40 colleagues.

Administration

- HHS' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) [announced](#) \$100 million in aid for the National Special Pathogen System to prepare for a surge in coronavirus patients.
- FDA issued [guidance](#) for the temporary manufacturing of alcohol for incorporation into alcohol-based hand sanitizer products during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HHS' Office of Civil Rights (OCR) released [guidance](#) to help ensure first responders and public health authorities receive protected health information about individuals exposed to COVID-19 so they can take extra precautions or use personal protective equipment.
- During a coronavirus task force briefing yesterday, Response Coordinator Birx [stated](#) 370,000 tests have been processed so far, with 220,000 being done in the past eight days. She noted that HHS is working on the ability for people to take their own sample nose swab and send it to a laboratory for testing.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

- 3/25 The Hill published an article titled, "[States reject Trump calls to reopen economy by Easter.](#)"
- 3/25 Morning Consult published an article titled, "[As Trump eyes restarting economy, nearly 3 in 4 voters support national quarantine.](#)"
- 3/24 The Hill published an article titled, "[Italy's suffering offers potential terrifying coronavirus preview for US.](#)"
- 3/24 ABC News published an article titled, "[COVID-19 symptoms may include altered senses of smell, taste.](#)"
- 3/24 The Hill published an article titled, "[Doctors, nurses and hospitals issue open letter urging public to stay home.](#)"
- 3/24 The Atlantic published an article titled, "[What Happens If Health-Care Workers Stop Showing Up?](#)"
- 3/24 Modern Healthcare published an article titled, "[Can blood from coronavirus survivors treat the newly ill?](#)"
- 3/23 The New York Times published an article titled, "[Trump Has Given Unusual Leeway to Fauci, but Aides Say He's Losing His Patience.](#)"